

**JOE WARDY**  
MAYOR



**CITY COUNCIL**

**SUSAN AUSTIN**  
DISTRICT NO. 1

**ROBERT A. CUSHING, JR.**  
DISTRICT NO. 2

**JOSE ALEXANDRO LOZANO**  
DISTRICT NO. 3

**JOHN COOK**  
DISTRICT NO. 4

**DANIEL S. POWER**  
DISTRICT NO. 5

**PAUL J. ESCOBAR**  
DISTRICT NO. 6

**VIVIAN ROJAS**  
DISTRICT NO. 7

**ANTHONY W. COBOS**  
DISTRICT NO. 8

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2003  
2:00 P.M.**

The City Council met at the above place and date at approximately 2:30 p.m. Mayor Joe Wardy present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Susan Austin, Robert A. Cushing, Jr., Jose Alexandro Lozano, John F. Cook, Daniel S. Power, Paul J. Escobar, Vivian Rojas and Anthony W. Cobos. El Paso County Judge Dolores Briones and El Paso County Commissioners Charles L. Scruggs, Betti Flores, Miguel A. Teran and Daniel R. Haggerty present.

**AGENDA**

**FY 2004 BUDGET HEARINGS SCHEDULE**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>DEPARTMENT</u></b>
<b>August 21, 2003</b>	<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b><u>Health Services</u></b>

Discussion and Action for City-County Health District Budget

Ms. Diana Nuñez, Deputy City Clerk, opened the meeting and called roll. The following Representatives answered: Representatives Austin, Cushing, Lozano, Cook, Power, Escobar, Rojas and Cobos.

Mr. David Almonte, Director of Office of Management and Budget, explained the actions taken by Council at the Special meeting on Wednesday, August 20, 2003, and the changes made to the FY 2004 Proposed Budget by increasing the revenues for Animal Licensing by \$160,000.

Dr. Magaña, Health Director, explained what the department does.

Mr. Mark Everett, Public Health Administrator for the Health Department, stated that the Health Department's budget is approximately \$20 million dollars and proceeded to give a PowerPoint presentation (on file in the City Clerk's Office). He explained the increase in activities and the proposed program improvements, giving the particulars of the Vector Initiative Program Improvement #1 and the Engineer for Environmental Program Improvement #2.

Representative Cook commented on the amount of money designated for the Spay and Neuter program and on the proposed program improvements.

Commissioners Scruggs and Flores commented.

Representative Lozano stated that the Texas Restaurant Association has proposed to the Health Department to issue the Food Handlers cards online. The Association then will pay a percentage to the Health Department.

Representative Escobar questioned if this will decrease or increase the revenues for the Health Department.

Dr. Magaña and Mr. Everett stated that this is the first time they have heard about the Texas Restaurant Association's proposition and that they would be more than glad to talk to them.

Dr. Magaña asked Council to keep in mind that the issuance of the Food Handlers cards is to keep control on the safety and the hygiene of the products and to protect the consumers' health.

Representative Austin questioned if the Health Department is considering holding evening classes and encouraged them to do so.

Mr. Everett responded that they are looking into the schedules and gave the particulars of the class schedules.

Representative Austin questioned why the Routine Immunization collection rate was so low, 67%.

Mr. Everett explained that this is due to some people not being eligible, and they still receive the services regardless, impacting reimbursements.

Dr. Magaña explained that this is also due to the fact that the City of El Paso is a low-income city but that eventually, this is a win-win situation since it preserves the health of the community.

Representatives Rojas and Austin asked questions on eligibility of participants and why they do not quality.

Mr. Everett responded that there is the possibility that some participants are eligible but that the Health Department employees are not properly trained.

Representative Austin questioned what is the non-collection impact.

Mr. Everett responded that it is approximately \$300,000.

Representative Cobos questioned the amount of \$642,651 for Environment – General & On Site.

Mr. Everett responded with explanation.

Representative Power asked questions on the Vector Initiative Program and expressed his concerns about the West Nile mosquito in the community.

Mr. Everett explained that the Vector Initiative Program not in the FY 2004 proposed budget, this equals to a 1.47% increase.

Representative Austin reiterated that this is not part of the proposed budget.

Representative Lozano questioned the number of inspectors doing Vector Control.

Mr. Everett responded that there are a total of eight (8) inspectors and that they are currently cross training.

Dr. Magaña stated that 14 cases have been identified, 2 cases have been confirmed to be West Nile, and 1 fatality might be West Nile but has not been confirmed yet; they are still testing.

Representative Escobar expressed his concern on not having enough inspectors to address the West Nile issue. He proceeded to ask if the Health Department gets any money from the \$2 fee for tire disposal.

Mr. Everett responded that they are currently cross training their inspectors and that the Health Department does not get any money from tire disposals, as they would have to physically dispose of the tires.

Representative Cushing questioned the amount of the total budget including the Vector Initiative Program

Mr. Everett responded that it is a combined total of \$778,000.

Representative Power reiterated his concern on announcing a fatality due to West Nile if confirmed and how the community will panic and believe that the City cannot control it.

Representative Cobos questioned how public education is being addressed and what the fatality rate is.

Dr. Magaña responded that the fatality rate is 0.05% and added that the Health Department will be running the service throughout the year instead of the summer only.

Representative Cobos questioned if the Health Department is collaborating with Cd. Juarez.

Dr. Magaña responded that they are and that they have provided Cd. Juarez, Sunland Park and New Mexico with traps and other things.

Representative Cushing questioned if the proposed additional two positions as Environmental Health Technicians will be cross training or will they only be performing environmental contract.

Mr. Everett responded that 25% of it would be cross training.

Representative Cobos questioned if the additional Engineer position is valuable.

Mr. Everett explained that the Board of Health has approved the position.

Representative Lozano questioned who would be running the Engineer for Environmental Program Improvement #2.

Mr. Everett responded that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) would be controlling it.

Mr. Almonte provided additional comments.

Representative Escobar questioned how long it will take to cross train, test and to certify inspectors.

Mr. Everett explained that it takes between seven to ten days to cross train assuming other training as well and then testing.

Representatives Power and Escobar questioned what the plan is.

Mr. Everett responded that they it would take approximately two months to fully train and explained that the Health Department is presently requesting waivers for the cost of the test.

Representatives Power and Escobar stated that it is Council's wish to make cross-training a priority.

Representative Escobar questioned if the Health Department had enough chemicals.

Mr. Everett responded that there are enough supplies, but not enough manpower.

Representative Rojas questioned what the inspectors are doing when they are not spraying.

Dr. Magaña explained that the inspectors couldn't spray when it's raining and when there is fog.

Mr. Yusuf Farran, Chairman of the City-County Board of Health, expressed his concern in regards to the Health Department not having one single engineer.

Commissioner Teran expressed his concern on the landfill around Cielo Vista and questioned if a public hearing would help appropriately.

Representative Power stated that he supports Commissioner Teran on his disagreement with the TCEQ issuing a permit at that site and questioned what the legal ramifications are.

Representative Lozano stated that per the contract, the Cielo Vista site should be used as a secondary plant, he explained that if the Vinton plant closes, which is the main plant, they would have to use the Cielo Vista plan as the primary plant and that would be in violation of the contract.

Ms. Teresa Garcia, Assistant City Attorney, explained that she would only give legal advise in executive session.

Commissioner Flores also expressed her disagreement with the Cielo Vista landfill and how it stinks around the area.

Dr. Magaña explained that the Health Department has no jurisdiction at all.

Commissioner Scruggs questioned if TCEQ asked for the Health Department's opinion.

Dr. Magaña responded that the Health Department did not provide negative comments, they only raised their concerns.

Commissioner Teran reiterated how the County was left out.

Representative Austin questioned if the City gave any goals to the Health Department as did the County.

Mr. Everett stated that the County set a 3% reduction goal, which was met.

Mr. Almonte gave the details on the City's goal regarding capital improvements.

Mr. William Chapman, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Financial and Administrative Services/Chief Financial Officer, explained that there is no capital improvement for this year.

Representative Austin questioned if the goal has been met.

Mr. Almonte responded that the goal has been met.

Representative Austin questioned if the Health Department will be meeting the goal with and without the increases.

Mr. Everett responded that the goal was met.

Commissioner Haggerty questioned the County's contributions.

Mr. Everett responded that it is \$2.2 million and a \$1.5 grant.

Commissioner Scruggs expressed his appreciation to the City for the Spay and Neuter addition, but requested no more additions.

Commissioner Haggerty expressed his disappointment on the additional money to the budget.

Judge Briones explained that this is traditional public health and that Thomason Hospital is for the indigent outpatient.

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Motion made by Representative Cook, seconded by Representative Power and carried to approve the FY 2004 budget for the City-County Health District budget as presented.

AYES:           Representatives Austin, Cook, Power, Escobar and Rojas  
NAYS:           Representatives Cushing, Lozano and Cobos

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Motion made by Commissioner Haggerty, seconded by Commissioner Teran and carried to approve the FY 2004 budget for the City-County Health District budget as presented.

AYES:           Commissioners Teran, Flores, Scruggs and County Judge Briones  
NAYS:           Commissioner Haggerty

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Motion made by Representative Cook, seconded by Representative Escobar and unanimously carried to adjourn this meeting at 3:40 p.m.  
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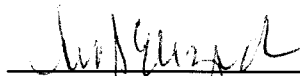
APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



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Richarda Duffy Momsen, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



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Lisa A. Elizondo, City Attorney